

No. 32035

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
BELARUS**

**Agreement on economic cooperation. Signed at London on
1 March 1994**

Authentic texts: English and Belarusian.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
on 3 July 1995.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
BÉLARUS**

**Accord de coopération économique. Signé à Londres le
1^{er} mars 1994**

Textes authentiques : anglais et biélorusse.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord
le 3 juillet 1995.*

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus (named below jointly as “the Parties” and separately as “the Party”);

Considering economic relations as an important and necessary element in the strengthening of bilateral relations;

Being convinced that the development of bilateral economic co-operation will further the improvement of the prosperity of the peoples of each country;

Expressing confidence that the widening of economic co-operation between the Parties and the peoples of each country including direct contacts between Belarusian organisations, companies and citizens and British organisations, companies and citizens (hereinafter referred to as “nationals and legal persons”) will be an important step on the path towards the integration of the Republic of Belarus into the world economic system;

Desiring to establish a basis for economic co-operation between the two countries;

Confirming their wish to develop economic co-operation in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act (August 1975),¹ the Paris Charter for a New Europe (November 1990),² the Helsinki Document of 1992³ and with the other documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and in accordance with the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (March–April 1990),⁴ with the European Energy Charter (December 1991)⁵ and The Joint Declaration between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Belarus (October 1993);

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall seek, in accordance with the principles of a market economy and of private enterprise, to promote co-operation between businesses in the two countries in different areas of economic activity.

¹ Came into force on 1 March 1994 by signature, in accordance with article 16.

² *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

³ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session*, document A/45/859.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Forty-seventh Session*, document A/47/361-S/24370.

⁵ *International Legal Materials*, vol. XXIX, No. 4 (1990) p. 1054 (American Society of International Law).

They shall do this, *inter alia*, by means of encouraging:

- (a) the use of all available methods of financing for the support of mutual co-operation in business, investment and joint enterprises;
- (b) the establishment of preconditions for investment in their countries which will be attractive to investors from the other country;
- (c) the creation and maintenance of systems to protect intellectual property in accordance with the standards generally prevailing in the European Community;
- (d) measures to assist the development of economic and business links, such as fairs, exhibitions, seminars, and the exchange of visits of business delegations.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties confirm that they shall co-operate to assist in bringing about an increase in mutually beneficial business, to help create a favourable climate and legal basis for economic co-operation, to eliminate barriers and obstacles and to assist in specific projects for economic co-operation.

ARTICLE 3

Each Party shall provide the other Party with information on any changes in its legislation which could have an effect on economic activity. Wherever possible, such information shall be provided in advance of the new legislation coming into force.

ARTICLE 4

Each Party, at the request of the other Party, shall provide information to assist economic co-operation, including information on customs regulations and tariffs, import and export licensing regulations and procedures.

ARTICLE 5

Each Party shall provide interested nationals and legal persons of the other country, at the request of such persons, with market information in its possession—insofar as such information is of a non-confidential character and its provision is consistent with the national law of the Party providing such information.

ARTICLE 6

The Parties confirm their readiness to co-operate within the framework of international economic and financial institutions.

ARTICLE 7

Each Party affirms the importance of the principle of the freedom of transit of goods transported through its territory and originating from the territory of the other country, in accordance with the laws and provisions pertaining in its country.

ARTICLE 8

The Parties recognise the importance of economic co-operation in the development of infrastructure, including transport and communications both national and international. They shall encourage companies and organisations to participate in projects to improve the infrastructure, including co-operation in securing funding from international organisations for that purpose.

ARTICLE 9

The Parties shall continue to co-operate and encourage co-operation through training and other forms of technical assistance with the aim of expanding the knowledge, skills and experience of managers and specialists in all fields of industry and agriculture, financial management and financial services.

ARTICLE 10

Each Party confirms that it shall provide an effective framework for private investment and legal protection for investment by nationals and legal persons of the other country.

ARTICLE 11

The Parties recognise the importance of co-operation in the fields of science and technology and agree to promote such co-operation on a mutually beneficial basis. Such co-operation shall include but shall not be limited to the exchange of appropriate information, scientists and specialists.

ARTICLE 12

Nationals and legal persons of either country shall receive national treatment with respect to access to and procedure of all courts and administrative bodies in the territory of the other country as plaintiffs, defendants or otherwise in connection with commercial deals. This Article shall not, however, prevent the courts from requiring a plaintiff who is not resident in the territory of the Party where he is bringing proceedings to give security for the costs of those proceedings.

ARTICLE 13

Each Party agrees to conduct, at the request of the other Party, immediate consultations concerning problems linked with the implementation of the present Agreement, which in the opinion of the requesting Party might cause damage to its economy, financial position, national industry or agriculture. In choosing measures for resolving the above-mentioned problems the Parties shall give preference to those measures which have the least negative influence on the achievement of the purposes of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 14

Any changes or additions to this Agreement shall be agreed in writing between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

ARTICLE 15

The Parties declare that this Agreement shall not detract from or otherwise displace the Parties' respective rights and obligations either under any existing or future bilateral and multilateral agreements to which they are party or arising from their membership of international organisations, and that co-operation under this Agreement shall proceed to the extent that it is compatible with those rights and obligations. They declare that this Agreement is not intended to affect the interests of any other State or groups of States.

ARTICLE 16

This Agreement shall enter into force on signature, and shall remain in force until the expiry of six months from the date upon which one party notifies the other of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at London this First day of March 1994 in two originals in the English and Belarusian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland:

MICHAEL HESELTINE

For the Government
of the Republic of Belarus:

RADKEVICH